

LD 1857: Bay Management Study
Workplan Adopted by the Land and Water Resources Council (June 16, 2004)
(Updated by Staff 8/17/04 for posting on website)

Interagency Staff: The Council will be staffed by the State Planning Office and the Department of Marine Resources. Staff will include:

Kathleen Leyden, Director, Maine Coastal Program (SPO)
Todd Burrowes, Policy development specialist (SPO)
David Etnier, Deputy Commissioner (DMR)
Deirdre Gilbert, Special Assistant to the Commissioner (DMR)
Samantha Horn-Olsen, Aquaculture Policy Coordinator (DMR)
John Sowles, Ecology Division Director (DMR)
Seth Barker, GIS Specialist (DMR)
Vanessa Levesque, NOAA Coastal Services Center Fellow (August 2004-August 2006)
Joshua Wernig, UMaine Law School summer intern (June 2004-August 2004)

Funding: The Maine Coastal Program has allocated \$75,000 of Federal Coastal Zone Management Funds for the first year of this two-year project. The majority of this funding will be used to support bay management pilot projects in two locations. Funds will also be used for process facilitation, data acquisition, travel and expenses, miscellaneous consultant contracts, and to support a seminar series.

Project Initiation: The project has a statutory start date of no later than September 1, 2004. Due to the need to get the pilot projects initiated by January 2005, staff has tentatively planned an initial meeting of the steering committee via conference call in July 2004 to move the process forward. Staff and interns will also undertake background research over the summer months.

Steering Committee: Input on the project will be provided by a steering committee made up of members of the public with expertise in relevant fields of interest. The proposed steering committee composition is:

Paul Anderson, Director, Maine Sea Grant
Kathleen Billings, Chair, Soft Shell Clam Advisory Council; Town of Stonington
Heather Deese, Science Director, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
Dewitt John, Director of Environmental Studies, Bowdoin College
Evan Richert, Program Director, Gulf of Maine Census on Marine Life
Jim Salisbury, Retired CEO, Supreme Alaska Seafoods
David Schmanska, Harbormaster, St. George
Barbara Vickery, Director of Conservation Programs, ME Chapter of the Nature Conservancy

Tasks Identified in LD 1857: LD 1857 identifies seven issues to be considered in the Council's evaluation of bay management. Some of these issues will be explored through the work of the pilot projects, others will need to be analyzed following the completion of the pilot projects. Project components have been divided below:

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Pre-pilot project initiation

Drawing on national and international examples, define a range of approaches for bay management that is feasible for use in Maine;
Establish principles for undertaking the bay management study

Through pilot projects

Identify data and information needs, mapping needs and information transfer needs for bay management;
Identify authorities that govern near-shore waters and identify changes needed to regulatory structures, including but not limited to statutes, regulations and grant programs;
Identify opportunities to create limited local authority for bay management;

Post-pilot project analysis and recommendation development

Establish definitions, principles, goals and objectives for bay management in the State;
Establish clear criteria and standards for bay management, including guidelines to inform voluntary planning efforts by citizen groups;
Identify state, local and volunteer resources and capacity needed for bay management.

Project Timeline:

Pre-Pilot Projects:

June-August 2004: National/international examples of bay management analysis
September 2004: Soundings Institute* meeting (*The Soundings Institute meeting has since been moved to April 2005*)

Pilot Projects:

May/June 2004: Staff meet with interested groups for input into developing criteria for pilot project selection, discussion of goals of pilot projects
June 2004: Staff develop draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for steering committee review, including draft criteria for selection of pilot projects
July 2004: Steering committee reviews draft RFP
September 2004: Steering committee makes final comments on RFP
October 2004: RFP distributed
Mid-October 2004: Informational meeting regarding RFP for potential applicants if needed
Mid-November 2004: Proposals submitted
December 2004: Steering committee and staff review proposals, score and make recommendations
Mid-December 2004: Second meeting with LWRC – pilot projects selected
January 2005 – January 2006: Pilot projects conducted

*The Soundings Institute: Advancing Community-Based Practices in Marine Conservation and Management will convene on 12-16 September 2004 in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, Canada. The Soundings Institute will bring experienced practitioners from North America's Atlantic Region (Newfoundland to Massachusetts) together to present and discuss their work in the community-based marine conservation and management realm.

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January 2005 – January 2006: Compilation of regional marine GIS; GIS Analysis
applied to 2 pilot projects; charettes with pilot project stakeholders

Bay Management Seminar Series: Concurrent with the pilot projects, staff plan to hold 6-8 seminars to provide for a broader discussion of bay management issues, particularly to ensure participation for those regions not selected as a pilot project. The seminar series will include opportunities for group discussion and will be facilitated. Possible topics include updates on the pilot projects, GIS presentations, invited experts, roundtable discussions, etc.

Post Pilot Project Analysis:

January-June 2006: Informational sessions about pilot projects; public input

June-December 2006: Needs assessment – volunteer/local/state capacity; science, research, monitoring; statutory authority

June-December 2006: Conduct feasibility analysis for development of more complete statewide marine GIS for longer-term consideration

June-December 2006: Development of report, recommendations to Legislature

Public Participation: Staff are working on developing a public participation plan which will be brought before the Council in December for its approval. A website will be developed to provide information to the public about the project's progress and to provide notification of meetings, including those of the Council. LD 1857 also calls for the staff work group to meet to the extent necessary in different regions of the state expressly for the purpose of receiving public comment and testimony on its work.

Action items at LWRC meetings:

June 2004: Introduction to project (background on Governor's Task Force on the Planning and Development of Marine Aquaculture in Maine, LD 1857), approval of work plan and steering committee composition

December 2004: Selection of pilot projects, approval of public participation plan

May 2005: Update on pilot projects, overview of most promising governance approaches (from Summer 04 and subsequent work)

September 2005: Demonstration of marine GIS, possible applications for other agencies

December 2005: Results of Pilot Projects -- Lessons Learned; Review and Approve Interim report for Legislature

May 2006: Review options for inclusion in final report. Provide direction to staff on recommendations.

September 2006: Initial review of final report. Provide direction to staff on recommendations; Review and approve long-term plan for Marine GIS.

December 2006: Finalization of final report and recommendations to the Legislature.

Reports/Presentations:

January 2005: Year 1 progress report to NOAA

March 2005: Presentation at Fishermen's Forum

June 2005: Year 1 final report to NOAA

December 2005: Interim report to the LWRC

January 2006: Year 2 progress report to NOAA

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March 2006: Presentation at Fishermen's Forum

June 2006: Year 2 final report to NOAA

December 2006: Final recommendations from the LWRC to the Legislature